

School Spirit on the Rise



Some of the Spirited Students at V. V. M. S. gather for midday frolio.

GRAPEVINETM VISITACION VALLEY

ISSUE #55

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1991

VVMS ACCENTUATES ON THE "POSITIVE" AND "SELF-ESTEEM"

by John F. Curran

In 1983 I was teaching at Visitacion Valley Middle School and I've returned to serve as the Assistant Principal for the past year and a half. Just in this brief time I have begun to notice a change in our school. In the past, our school has been viewed in a negative manner. It is truly amazing how people make judgments about someone or a place on "hear say" alone. People that visit our school find it to be quite different from what they expected. Having been to a majority of middle schools in San Francisco, I feel that Visitacion Valley can hold its own against the best of them. We have a qualified teaching staff providing a quality education, including over 90 computers that are helping our kids prepare for the world tomorrow. In addition to academics Visitacion Valley provides a fine after school enrichment program that includes reading, calligraphy, chorus, ceramics, and eight varsity sports. Our counseling staff is very effective in dealing with our young people through cooperative discipline preventing fights before they happen and significantly reducing the dropout and suspension rates.

continued on page 4

continued on page 8

Property Owner's Nightmare a Case of Mistaken Identity

by GERRY L. GALVAN

The Department of Public Works of the City and County of San Francisco has embarked on the thankless task of inspecting the sidewalks of the city for defects and reminds property owners that they are bound by law to maintain the sidewalk in front of their property including the driveway.

Under the leadership of Richard J. Evans, Director, the department sends out field representatives to

areas where a sidewalk or portions of the sidewalk is believed to be defective or damaged to such an extent as to "cause personal injury or property damage".

Should any personal injury or property damage occur, "the property owner is liable for any claim or claims arising therefrom."

Director Evans and his field inspectors are authorized to conduct sidewalk and driveway inspections on San Francisco residents's properties

and homes by provisions of Section 706 of San Francisco Public Works Code.

It appears that, as evidenced by the inspection report and "Notice to Repair Sidewalks Within Thirty (30) Days", submitted by Inspector M. Montenegro, San Francisco's Public Works Dept. has been wanting in accuracy and efficiency.

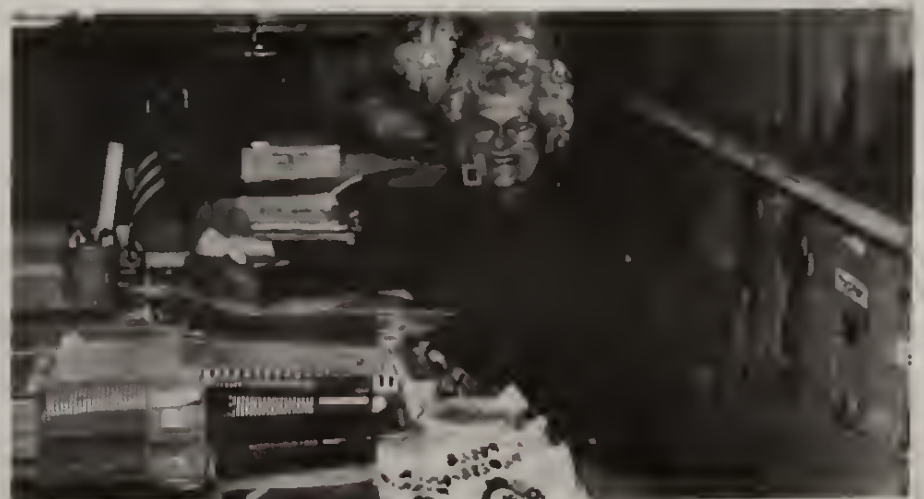
The department's apparent sloppy handling of its job surfaced the other day when an elderly San Francisco property/home owner sought your reporter's help in getting Messers Evans' and Montenegro's attention on their apparent mistake. Grapevine paid the complaining homeowner a visit at his/her home the other day (for security reasons, Grapevine is withholding his/her identity; he/she fears that neighborhood thugs would take advantage of his/her situation.

Valley Neighbors Form New Group

More than 50 neighbors met together in the gym at Visitacion Valley Community Center on January 14, 1991. Initially the group was brought together by the concern over muggings and other violent crimes that plague our Valley. Incidences of muggings and thefts were described by many of our newer Chinese neighbors at the October 14th Barbeque and at other recent neighborhood gatherings. Now the group, predominantly Chinese, is organizing with the assistance of San Francisco's Project S.A.F.E. to address the problem of the victimization of their families.

Representatives of S.A.F.E. and the Potrero Police District Station gave advice to the neighbors about

how to avoid situations that make people vulnerable to attack. They also distributed a number of pamphlets in two languages on such topics as: Neighborhood Watch Groups, Personal Safety, "Classic Cons", Child Safety, Business Security and others. The Police representatives promised to help in solving the residents' problems in getting responses to their calls for help, and in checking out trouble areas of the neighborhood more regularly. S.A.F.E. will continue to meet with the new group on a monthly basis. This promises to be an active new neighborhood organization, with plans to expand to doing some social activities together as well in the future. Watch for more news of their activities in the Grapevine.



Ms. Peagler, VVMS Principal

CENTERVIEW



by Julie Kavanagh

THE WRONG BIRTHDAY PRESENT

On Monday, January 21, 1991, a gang of youths came up for the day from the South Bay to attend the Martin Luther King Birthday celebration. Dr. King was and is one of Black America's greatest heroes and proponents of non-violence. These youth celebrated by shooting another youth to death right there during the celebration. They then were caught while attempting an armed robbery on the train back to the South Bay. Some present!

The same day, they buried Bobby, a young Samoan boy who used to play over at the Visitation Valley Playground on Leland and Cora. He was killed last week over in Hunters Point. Some present!

THE RIGHT BIRTHDAY PRESENT

We need to rediscover the value and importance of play, and teach it to our youth. How often have you said or heard someone say: "Don't play with me!", "Grow up, why don't you?", "Quit playing games.", "Only babies play."

"Only babies play."...That is not

true! Everyone plays; it is the way we learn. Babies play to learn muscle control and coordination. Kids in grade school play house, play store, play Doctors & Nurses, etc. to learn how to grow up. Grownups often "role play" when they want to learn a new behavior. Many job training programs include role playing techniques.

All learning is done like a game. As in any game, there are leaders...someone has to play who knows how the game is played, so s/he can teach it to the other players. **Wanted: a few good leaders.** What's happening, I think, is that we all have been expecting the kids to stop playing games (and be grown) at the age of five, when they leave kindergarten. Of course, since playing is how we learn, they still play; only they don't know the game and they don't have anyone to lead them who knows how to play it. So, they play at what they see: turf wars in Saudi Arabia, drug wars south of the border, gang wars on the news, soap opera romances, and so on... People (and youth, too) respond to whoever has the time to listen and the willingness to pay attention. Who pays attention to the youth these days? No life - low life - hangers on the corner drinking and smoking with nothing to do - life. No leaders there!

There are adults (and kids, too) who know how to play. We need to encourage them to play with us and the youth, and teach us the way to play. We need to allow time and space for the games necessary. Violence destroyed many of the opportunities for play that used to be plentiful for teenagers. Violence killed the old "Friday Night Dances" 25 years ago. Violence took care of a lot of places and times. Most recently, the Bowling Alley on Geneva was

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3. REMAIN ON THE TELEPHONE UNTIL YOU ARE CONNECTED WITH THE POLICE RADIO DISPATCHER AND ANSWER QUESTIONS AS BRIEFLY AND ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE.
4. WHEN ANSWERING QUESTIONS BY THE POLICE DISPATCHER, CONCENTRATE ON DESCRIBING ONLY ONE SUSPECT AT A TIME. ALWAYS DESCRIBE SUSPECT FROM HEAD DOWN TO FEET. (SEE HELPFUL DESCRIPTION INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS CARD).
5. FOR NON-EMERGENCY ROUTINE POLICE BUSINESS, TELEPHONE 553-0123.

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

如何報案

1. 發生緊急事情時，請保持鎮定，不可先打電話給親友，應該先打9 1 1給警方。
2. 警方接線生接電話時，首先說明你在何處和急事的性質。例如：「我在都板街三千號，剛發生打劫。」
3. 不要收線，要等到接線生接上警方急報員。回答問題時要答得簡單和準確。
4. 回答急報員問題，形容疑犯時，如果超過一個，要逐個描述，而且要描述得一清二楚，由頭到腳。（關於詳細對警方形容疑犯的方法，請看本卡背面。）
5. 如果不是與人命有關或緊急意外，而又需要警方人員幫忙，請打以下電話：553-0123。

✧三藩市警察局✧

sold to a developer who is going to build homes there. The "last straw" for the bowling alley owners was the violence that was occurring in and around their place. There's talk about tearing down the fieldhouse at "little Vis Playground" because of violence and vandalism. Violence killed all the good places for young

people to play...it's time to let play come back and wipe out violence. Get involved with your local recreation leaders in the clubs, the schools, the community centers, the church groups and the City Recreation Department. You can be a leader and together we can give Dr. King the best Birthday Present ever.

Valley Vitals

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sgt. & Mrs. Herman P. Jones have become the parents of their second daughter. **Cassandra Jones** was born Monday, January 21, 1991 at 8:23 PM. She weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz. and measured 20 1/4 inches. Congratulations to all, and welcome Cassandra.

Rev. & Mrs. James Pittman announced the birth of their first child, **Lindsay Elizabeth Pittman**. Lindsay, born at 9:34 AM on Friday, January 11, 1991; weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz.

and was 19 inches long at birth. Rev. Jim says "she's beautiful!!!"

OBITUARIES

Mary Micallef (nee Agius) was born on the beautiful island of Malta, August 3, 1901. She lived there until the age of 18 when her husband, Charles Micallef, sent for her to join him in the United States.

Mary sailed from Malta to New York's Ellis Island and from there traveled by train across country to San Francisco, where she reunited with Charles and together they set up housekeeping. Soon, there were three wonderful children; Carmelita, Theresa and Paul.

Mary's sister, Pauline, came to America a few years after Mary. Pauline married Charles' brother, so both Mary and Pauline had the same last name: Micallef. Pauline and Mary were not only sisters, but best friends.

Mary was always known as a very strong and hardworking woman. She was highly respected among the Maltese community. When families migrated from Malta, Mary opened her doors to help the people until they could find jobs and homes for themselves. Her special quality of caring has been remembered by many.

Mary moved to Visitation Valley in 1962. The Micallef sisters were widowed and lived together on Hahn Street for many years. Both were ac-

tive at Visitation Valley Senior Center and attended Our Lady of Visitation Church.

Mary passed away on January 4, 1991. She is missed by everyone who knew her. She was a grand lady.- Pat Crocker -

Stanley Sebek was born on May 7, 1901. Mr. Sebek lived in Visitation Valley all of his adult life. Stanley

worked at Schlage Lock Company for over 30 years. He was well liked and admired by his bosses and co-workers, one of whom was Rose Donovan. Rose knew Stanley well over 50 years, from Schlage Lock and from Visitation Valley Senior Center.

Stanley was a kind, generous man. He passed away on January 17, 1991. We'll miss his smile.- Pat Crocker -

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

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Sunnydale Rec News...

SD

Shirletha Holmes-Boxx ©

In light of all the recent violence, I want to share this poem, written by one of the youth, with you:

A TEENAGER SPEAKS FROM THE GRAVE

What a dark, damp place this is
I can see no light
And everywhere I turn
It's as black as a swamp's night.

Oh, it's awful down here
My homeboys left me alone
For when Death calls on you
No one wants to be at home.

And if I had listened to Mama
When she got on my case
I would still be enjoying life
I wouldn't be in this place.

I'm only fourteen years old
Surely I was too young to die
But Death doesn't ask your age,
For he has no seeing eye.

Mama said, "Don't go to that party
It won't be supervised."
But out the window I bailed
As soon as she closed her eyes.

What do Mamas know 'bout parties
Stuff she hadn't even done.
She knew how to rank my action
And keep me from having fun.

Yeah, I went anyway because
Mama just wasn't being fair
I couldn't be cool at home
Homeboys said they'd be over there.

But Mamas have what we don't
A God-given instinct to protect
And can see a long way off
Before we fall into a net.

I was too cool to listen
Mama was just too far behind
I knew the why, what, where it was happening
She didn't know the give-me-five sign.

I knew all the right words to say
When my homeboys was around
I could stand on any corner
And rap heavy and spit on the ground.

Oh, I was bad, sporty. I was tough
To everybody, I was Mr. GO
And when anybody said Mr. Fine
I came right in on cue.

I had a ba-a-d Geri curl
Cut and laid in a shag style
And in four years I'd be grown
So you see, I wasn't no child.

None of the teachers at school
Knew more about life than me
I knew more about the world than
Anyone with a jive master's degree.

I knew, I knew all the tricks
Every game plan, every street rule
And going to church wasn't hip
And singing in the choir wasn't cool.

My homeboys gave me confidence
They made me feel like a real dude
And when they dared me to steal
A car, I said, "Yeah. I'm in the mood."

But the reason I was in the mood
Was they'd slipped dust in my drink
Cause they had taken a bet to see
How long it would take me to sink.

So I stole a ride, got behind the wheel
And down the street I flew
And when the cops gave chase
I thought they were homeboys too.

So I outran them and decided
That I could probably fly
Until a diesel truck came in the path
I found how quickly you can die.

My homeboys, they all survived
They squared up after that
But it's too late for me
Nothing can bring me back.

Oh, I used to get mad at Mama
When she'd beat me over the brow
But man, I'd give anything
If Mama could just beat me now.

I'd give anything at all to
Hear her fuss and raise sand
I'd beg her to get on my case
And to feel that back-breaking hand.

I'm going to miss Magic Mountain
Won't enjoy graduation day,
The thrill of having a new car.
Just cause I had to have my way.

But it's not too late for you
To change your cop-out scene.
So you won't be like me
Pushing up daisies at fourteen.



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PROPERTY OWNER'S NIGHTMARE

from page 1

Indeed inspector M. Montenegro was barking at the wrong tree when he sent the notices. Indeed, a series of notices to repair the damaged sidewalk were sent to the homeowner. Indeed, a bureaucratic threat has been posed against a nervous homeowner.

As gleaned from the document provided the Grapevine by the harassed homeowner, Inspector Montenegro made an inspection of the sidewalk on October 30, 1990. On November 5, 1990, he sent the initial "Notice to repair Sidewalk Within Thirty (30) days". The second notice was dated January 8, 1991.

The bureaucratic threat against the aggrieved homeowner in this particular case is very real and scary. Here is it in part "... and you are further notified that unless repair is started within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, and without interruption prosecuted to completion, the Director of Public Works, under the authority vested in him by Ordinance No. 9046, will repair the sidewalk and you shall owe the City and County of San Francisco the cost of repair, and the City and County of San Francisco shall have a lien upon the lot until payment of the cost is made."

The homeowner in this particular case does not argue with the city on that. Said homeowner has been disturbed by the fact that he/she has been the victim of an identity crisis.

Said homeowner has shown to all and sundry that the damage sidewalk is not part of his/her property.

Why then has City Hall been bugging him/her?? Grapevine wants to know.

Your reporter sent a letter to Director Evans asking him why. A phone call was made to Inspector Montenegro at his City Hall office. A woman who picked up the phone said Montenegro was out in the field but that he was coming back to the office at 4:00 P.M., said woman promised to advise Montenegro to return Grapevine's call.

Your reporter waited for his call until 5:10 P.M.. No return call from Montenegro.

MGA DAHANG MAY

Sinulat Ni Gerry L. Galvan

Ang lungsod ng San Francisco, sa pamamatu ngut ni Alkalde Art Agnos - sangayon sa balitang binahagi sa Grapevine ng isang mamayang tiga San Francisco - ay nagsusumikap ayusin ang mga daan at paligid, pati na ang mga dahang sasakyang tungung mga babay (driveway).

Sa gawaing ito' ang kagawarang "obras publicas" ng lungsud, sa pamamatu ngut ni Ginoong Richard Evans ay inuutusang magpadala ng

mga kawani sa ibat ibang puuk ng lungsud upang makita ang mga pangangailangan.

Ang babala sa mga mamayang mayroongariing lupa at babay ay ganito: "ayusin ang dahang babagi sa harapang babay at 'driveway' upang maiwasan ang sakuna sa katawan ng tao at pinsala sa pagaari." Dugtong sa babala ay ang mga salitang, "Sakaling masaktan ang isang tao, o mapinsala ang isang bagay aring kapua tao, ang maybahay ay ang sagut sa labat ng tustusin sa gamut at kalakal."

Ang babalang ito's dapat malamang labat ng mga mamamayan

continued on next page

新街坊組織成立

在一九九一年一月十四日，有超過五十名街坊鄰居，假座訪谷社區中心集會，這次集會主要是大家共同關切到訪谷地區的搶劫和其他暴力犯罪問題，已對社區安全造成危害。

在去年十月十四日舉行的社區烤肉會和最近的一些社區集會上，有許多新的華裔社區人士提到有關搶劫和偷竊的案件。這個新的組織現正透過舊金山 S.A.F.E. 專案的協助組織起來，他們都是熱心而傑出的華裔，今後將針對受害人及家庭面臨的問題，提供服務。

S.A.F.E. 專案的代表和警察分局的代表，在集會上曾忠告與會人士如何避免成為犯罪者攻擊的對象。他們也轉述了一些備有雙語內容的小手冊，這些手冊涵蓋的主題包括：「社區守望相助」、「防身術」、「金光黨騙術」、「兒童安全」、「開店安全守則」等。警方代表允諾協助居民解決問題，保證對他們的報案電話立即加以處理，並且將加強社區定期巡邏工作。

S.A.F.E. 專案將每月與此一新組織成員定期見面。此組織定會對社區帶來更多的安全保障，並將計劃在未來推動更多的社區活動。社區人士且拭目以待，GRAPEVINE (葡萄藤) 月刊將繼續為你提供有關的報導。

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upang sila's handang humarap sa ano mang pangyayari.

Si Patnugut Evans at ang kanyang mga taohan at kawani ay may pain-tulot, sa ilalim ng "Section 706 of the San Francisco Public Works Code", na tignan ang mga dahang may sira. Ito'y makatarungan, sa aming palagay. Datapwa't, lumilitaw ayun sa aming nabalitaan at nakita, na ang ilan sa mga kagawad ng kagawarang "public works" ay nagkakamili sa kanilang gawain.

Isang halimbawa sa pangyayaring ito'y ang ginawa ni Inspector M. Montenegro. Siya'y, ayun sa sum-bong ng isang mamamayan sa inyong tagalathala, pumunta sa dahang malapit sa kanyang bahay at nagpadala sa kanya ng "Notice to Repair Sidewalk Within Thirty (30) Days" liham.

Ito'y maling mali, "sabi ng mamamayan. "Walang katarungan itong ginagawa ng mga nasa kapan-gyarihan. Ang pinsala sa dahan ay hindi sa aking pagaari, kundi sa ari ng aking kapit bahay," sabi niya.

Ang sumbong sa inyong lingkod ng nasabing mamamayan ay ang nagdala sa amin sa kanyang tahanan. Tunay nga, si Inspector Montenegro'y tinignan ang nasabing dahan at siya'y nagsukat at gumulis doon. Ayon sa ulat, si Montenegro ay pumunta doon noong ika lima ng Oktubre isang libu siyam na raanat siyam na pu.

Noong ika lima ng Nubiembre, nagpadala si Inspector Montenegro ng unang "Notice to Repair Sidewalk Within Thirty (30) Days" sa nasabing mamamayan. Ang pangalawang ulat ay pinadlala noong ika huawlo ng Enero sanglibu siyam na raang siyam na put isa. Sa madalang salita, kung ang kagawaran ni Evans at Montenegro ay hindi maggiplan sa nakaulat na gawin, ang nasabing pinsala sa daan ay sisimulabin sa ika walo ng Febrero.

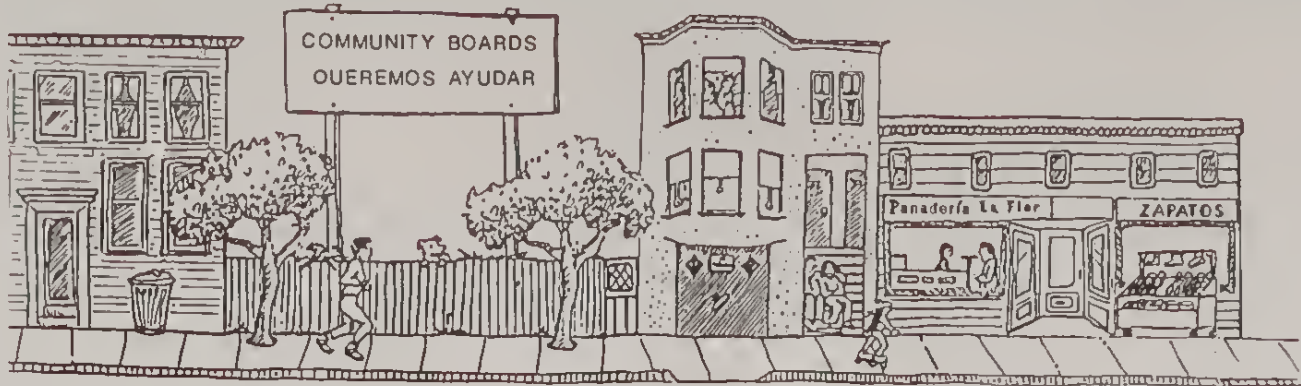
Ang pangyayaring ito's nagbibigay ng takot sa nasabing mamamayan. Ito'y hindi biro. Ito ang banta sa kanya, ".....ikaw'y binabalahang ipagawa kaagad ang nasabing pinsala sa dahan sa inyong harapan sa loob ng tatlung pung araw. Huwag titigilan hanggang hindi matapos ang gawa, bagkus ang patnugut ng aming kagawaran ay mapipitang, sa upaya ng Ordinance No. 9046, ipagawa ang nasabing pinsala. Ang tustus dito'y inyong sagot sa paraang pagpatung ng sayad sa inyong lupa at bahay."

Ang mamamayan nasa ulat na ito'y walang tutul sa utos ng "Ordinance". Ang tutul niya ay tunkul sa kamalibang nagawa sa kanyang lupa at bahay. Katarungan ang kanyang hinahabol.

Ang mga tanong kung bakit paulit-ulit ang libam nd padala ng kagawaran ni Patnugut Evans at ni Kawaning Montenegro sa nasabing mamamayan ay laging bumbalisa sa maraming tao sa Visitacion. Bakit ba namanganyan.

Ang inyong tagalathala's sumulat kay Patnugut Evans tungkul sa pangyayaring ito. Tinawagan sa telepono si Inspector Montenegro. Wala sa kanyang silid gawabin si Ginoong Montenegro, subali't nakiusap ang inyong tagaulat na ipaiwatig kay Montenegro na nais naming kausapin siya ukol sa nangyayari.

Hangga't tumakip ang silim, hindi tumawag si Ginoong Montenegro. Kahit na noong sumunod na araw, walang tawag na galing sa kanya.



Whatever the Problem...

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CALL us at 239-6100

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Para problemas pequeños o grandes, llame o visite nuestra oficina.

Llámenos al 239-6100
Visítenos en nuestra oficina...
161 Leland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134



無論甚麼問題

社區協調局, 有三市市民服務, 幫助解決鄰居, 家庭成員, 朋友, 青年, 同住伙伴, 機構, 業主與租客, 商人與消費者, 及僱主與雇員的問題。

我們可以幫助您解決糾紛, 找公平, 和平, 永久性的解決方法——我們處理快捷, 互相尊重, 通過有效的磋商達成協議。

無論紛爭是大是小, 請來中心親臨本局或來電洽商, 我們也通曉西班牙語。

電話: 239-6100

請親臨我們的辦事處: 161 Leland Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94134

Community Boards Can Help

1. We'll listen to your problem. If we can help, we'll ask you for information concerning your problem and the other person(s) involved.
2. With your permission, we'll then contact the other person(s) and encourage him/her/ them to participate in a Community Board panel hearing.
3. Next, we'll schedule the panel hearing at a time and place convenient to all.
4. At the hearing, a panel of trained community residents will listen to all sides of the dispute. The panel doesn't decide who's right or wrong, but will assist people in reaching their own agreement.
5. When an agreement is reached by the participants, the specifics are written down by a panelist and signed by all parties.
6. Though not legally binding, the signed agreement indicates the participants' commitment to the resolution of their dispute.
7. We will provide follow up on all agreements, and offer any necessary further assistance.

Why Use Community Boards?

QUICK HELP: Panel hearings are normally held within 30 days.

INFORMAL: Our process will not result in court or police records.

CONVENIENT: Panel hearings are scheduled during the day, evening or weekend in your neighborhood.

FREE: There is no charge and you don't need a lawyer.

PEACEFUL: Voluntarily resolving problems builds cooperation, better feelings and stronger neighborhoods.

Como Trabajamos...

1. Le escuchamos y pedimos detalles sobre el problema.
2. Si usted desea usar nuestros servicios, nosotros nos comunicaremos con la otra persona y le demostraremos la necesidad de tomar parte en una reunión.
3. Trataremos de arreglar la reunión para un día y una hora conveniente para todos.
4. Se lleva a cabo dicha reunión en la cual los participantes tratan de llegar a un acuerdo con la ayuda del panel comunitario.
5. Después de un tiempo razonable nos comunicaremos de nuevo para ver si todo sigue de acuerdo a la resolución.

¿Por qué usar Community Boards?

AYUDA PRONTA — Las reuniones toman lugar dentro de 30 días.

CONVENIENTE — Las reuniones toman lugar en su vecindario durante el día, noche, o fin de semana de acuerdo a su conveniencia.

GRATIS — No cobramos y no hay necesidad de abogados.

PACIFICA — La resolución voluntaria de problemas ayuda a crear mayor cooperación, mejores sentimientos y una comunidad más sana.

EFFECTIVA — Más del 85% de las personas que utilizan el panel comunitario han resuelto sus problemas o dificultades.

社區協調局——幫助您

1. 我們會細心聆聽您的問題, 如果我們可以幫助您, 我們會詢問您有關資料, 背景及您的問題的其他人。
2. 經您同意後, 我們會聯絡對方(他/她/他/她), 請他/她對您的問題親自出席聆聽。
3. 然後, 我們決定聆聽的日期, 地點, 以方便大家出席。
4. 聆聽的時候, 一個由經過訓練的社區居民組成的小組, 會聆聽雙方對問題的陳述, 詢問, 并判斷誰是誰非, 但會幫助大家達成協議。
5. 達成協議後, 期望由小組成員中其中一人寫下, 再由各方簽字。
6. 雖然簽署的協議沒有法律的約束力, 但表示衝突的各方都同意致力解決問題。
7. 我們以後會繼續與各方聯絡看有甚麼成效如何, 如果需要更多幫助, 我們樂意提供。

為什麼要找社區協調局?

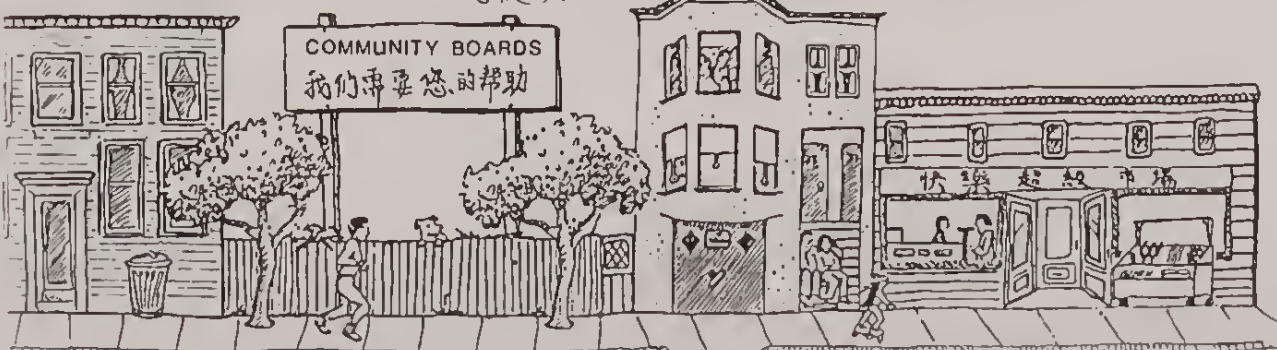
幫助快捷: 小組聆聽通常可在十日內舉行。

非正式: 協調過程不會紀錄入法庭或警方記錄。

方便: 小組聆聽會於您居住附近舉行, 日期, 在平日或週末都可以。

免費: 我們不收取任何費用, 也不需要律師。

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THE HOLE IN THE WALL

Here I am, back in Spain, fifty years later, my first jaunt into the past. I anticipated a pleasant review of my nostalgic memories and I was disappointed. Nothing was the same. Madrid was more beautiful than ever but alien to me. I was lost and disenchanted and I couldn't find the place where I used to dwell. The old familiar spots shared with friends had disappeared from the face of the earth, to be replaced by modern structures. Was it progress or was it the aftermath of the Civil War?

I had left Madrid in a huff and I now deem it timely to resume where I left off half a century ago.

Spain had been good to me as I had worked two full seasons with only two months' rest in between.

My savings were considerable and I could afford a little leisure.

I remember boarding a train for Lisbon where I soon discovered that Spanish pesos lasted twice as long as in Spain, meaning that in Portugal I would have to work for half my accustomed earnings. *Merde alors!* I decided to work where wages were high and loaf where the cost of living was low. The lower the expenses the longer my vacation. Confucius could not have said it any better.

After three months in Southern Portugal I ambled north to the city of Porto, where I spent a few more days.

When the time came to go back to Lisbon, with my eyes on cheap transportation, I decided to jump a freight train.

I had done it before and it presented no problems. I usually approached the train from the right side securing a strong hold with my left hand.

A few miles out of Porto while following the tracks, I saw a long freight leisurely approaching. On the right side there was no running space, so I got ready to board it from the left.

Boxcar following boxcar were running alongside of me with no crew members in sight. I sprinted along matching the speed of the train and, in all confidence, I reached for a hold with my right hand. Something went wrong. I was thrown clear of the train and I tumbled down a steep bank. I came to a stop upon a pile of rocks.

I was stunned. I sat up in time to see the train vanishing away, unconcerned about my fate.

I felt sore and contused all over. My left knee was badly lacerated and bleeding. I managed to get up but I couldn't bend my left leg. Walking became extremely painful.

As I limped along, following the tracks, I soon saw an isolated cottage, across the fields, by the seaside. By the time I reached it I was exhausted and looked a mess. I approached the front of the house, from where a woman had been watching me.

On closer look she realized I had an accident and thus she became solicitous and concerned.

"*Pobrezinho!* What happened to you?"

I told her.

She called out: "Lucia!"

A young girl appeared and they

both helped me into the house.

I learned eventually that I had stumbled on a fisherman's cottage with the husband away on a long fishing trip. The lady was ancient to my way of looking. Probably in her fifties, toothless and unkempt.

The girl was attractive. Eighteen, she told me. She kept staring at me, looking at me unashamedly as if I were the first man she ever saw. To her I was someone fallen from the sky, a strange boy from another world. My horrendous Portuguese brought uncontrollable giggles. I knew I fascinated her.

"*This is going to be easy!*" I said to myself.

While the mother was washing and cleaning my bruises my eyes were on Lucia.

After being fed some excellent *bacalao* I was placed on a cot in a small room. I thanked my stars that I had fallen in such good hands. During the rest of the day mother and daughter were taking turns looking after my comfort.

At one time, when I was alone with Lucia I bade her sit on my cot. I held her hand and smiled at her. Her eyes spoke volumes. Thus encouraged I pulled her closer and kissed her mouth. She submitted and went limp.

We heard approaching footsteps. "Tonight!" whispered Lucia jumping up to forestall her mother's entrance.

When night came I was left to myself to wonder what Lucia meant. I couldn't sleep as all my limbs were aching. It was late, very late when I heard my name softly spoken: "Pepe!"

I opened my eyes and stared. In the semi-darkness I couldn't see a soul. I was alone. "Pepe!" I heard again, barely a whisper. My cot rested against the wall and I felt a hand touching me. I patted it and

followed it to the elbow which was protruding from a hole in the plaster, a hole large enough for an arm to come through.

I kissed Lucia's hand with all the ardor of a passionate lover. She took my hand and pulled my arm through the hole. She guided my hand to her soft breasts and I fondled her, roaming and exploring. She did the same to me as we took turns. It was the most exciting night I ever spent. Our limited contact added to its enjoyment.

I hardly slept that night. I knew I could make up for it during the day.

At dawn life resumed to normal and Lucia's mother brought me coffee and rolls.

"Where is Lucia?" I asked.

"She is busy," was her curt answer.

For the rest of the day Lucia kept out of sight. Maybe she was playing it safe and didn't want to give herself away.

I wasn't worried. We had our nights and nobody could take those away from us.

And so it went for the next few days. I lived only for the nights, when our hands were busy commuting back and forth. Never a word was spoken for fear of discovery.

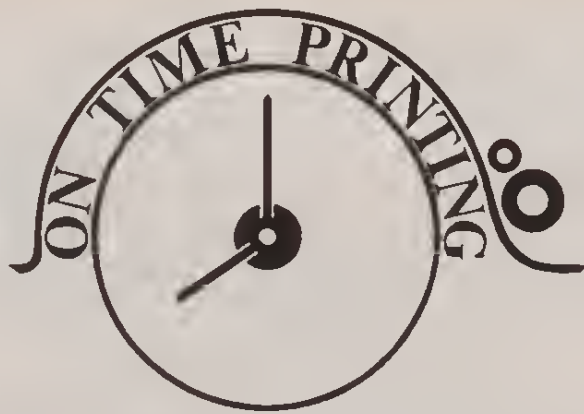
I was enjoying my vacation and couldn't wish for anything better. The time came when I wanted to get up but my hostess wouldn't allow it. "You are still too weak," she'd say. "A few more days will do it."

The following day I looked out of the window and saw the old lady in front of the cottage. I decided to defy her and got dressed. I walked out the back door.

At a distance I spotted Lucia busy in the orchard. I ran to her.

"Lucia!" I whispered, putting my arms around her and kissing her.

continued on page 9



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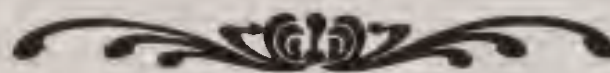
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**Mr. Curran, Assistant Principal; Ms. Kirkwood, Para;
Mr. Gillespie, Instructor; and student Delille LeSalle
of Visitation Valley Middle School**

from page 1

The students at Visitation Valley have really come together as a "family". In an activity I organized earlier in the year called "Getting To Know You", several students introduced me to their new friends from a different culture describing each others interest, hobbies, favorite foods, and famous people from each others' unique culture. As you know Visitation Valley Middle School has become a "melting pot" for children of many ethnicities. Our school is 34% Black,

19% Hispanic, 18% Chinese, 14% Filipino, and 15% Samoan, White and Vietnamese. It is really something to see our student body interacting in the classrooms, schoolyard and various school activities. We've had some very successful assemblies that focus on the POSITIVE and raising our own SELF ESTEEM. Our hard working staff is committed to giving our kids a quality program. Come visit Visitation Valley Middle School and see what I mean! Yes, Visitation Valley is on the move!!!!



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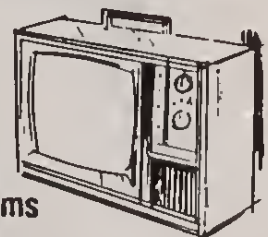
Community Boards

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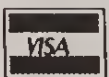
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THINKING OF YOU

Carlos Eduardo Bonilla is aboard the USS Missouri in Saudi Arabia.
Dina E. Bonilla is aboard the USS Lexington at Pensacola, Florida.
Gerald Curry is going to be at Puget Naval Base in Bremerton, Wa.
Helen Rago has retired from her sewing classes, which she taught through Community College at VVCC and other sites for 25 years.

CONGRATULATIONS
Marva Curry won the poster contest at the Business School of Commerce.

THANK YOU - from the Visitation Valley community members who attended to Fawzi Kad-doura and his family, for the Holiday Dinner given on January 10, 1991. Everyone enjoyed themselves...your kindness was greatly appreciated.

from page 7

Her response was not as I expected. She was sullen and withdrawn.
"What's the matter?" I asked.
"I hate her!" she said. "I hate her. I HATE HER!!!"
"Why? What did she do? Tell me."
"She switched rooms with me,

that's what she did, and forbade me to come near you."
The realization of what had taken place stunned me. The thought of having made love to that disgusting old hag made me want to vomit.
I couldn't face her.
I gathered my belongings, kissed Lucia good bye and took offl...



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by Anne Kaartunen

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This Month in S.F. History

Feb. 2: In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican War, and officially ceding California to the United States.

Feb. 3: In 1918, street car service began operation through the Twin Peaks Tunnel, completed in 1917.

Feb. 11: In 1854, select major streets were first illuminated with the use of coal gas. In 1936, the construction began on an 18,768,000 square foot fill adjacent to Yerba Buena Island. Named Treasure Island, it served as the location of the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition.

Feb. 12: In 1851, the Adelphi Theatre hosted Bellini's "La Sonnambula", the City's first grand opera. In 1945, the federal government informed San Francisco of its selection as site of the United Nations Conference.

Feb. 15: In 1861, Fort Point, under construction at the northern tip of the Presidio for several years, was finally completed, housing two companies of the 3rd artillery. In 1880, the Geary Street Railroad opened, providing the first rail public transportation to the City's west end. In 1917, the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library on Larkin Street in the Civic Center was officially dedicated.

Feb. 18: In 1859, boundaries were formally designated, creating San Francisco as a county. In 1939, the Golden Gate International Exposition opened its first year on Treasure Island, charging 50 cents for adults, and a quarter for children under 12.

Feb. 20: In 1915, the Panama Pacific Exposition, honoring the completion of the Panama Canal opened its gates.

Feb. 26: In 1891, the first of many buffalo were purchased for Golden Gate Park. In 1933, Crissy Field in the Presidio hosted the ground-breaking ceremonies for construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Feb. 27: In 1907, the Farrallone Islands, once infiltrated by profit-seeking egg poachers during gold rush days, is officially sanctioned a Federal Bird Reserve.

Feb. 28: In 1849, the 1,050-ton steamer California arrived in San Francisco Bay. Although 1,500 people sought continuing transport from Panama, and the 200 foot long ship was built to accomodate 200 passengers, almost 400 optimists eventually made it on board for the 42 day journey to become the very first forty-niners.

JOB INTERVIEW: WRONG PLACE TO BRING SNAKES, MEDITATE OR DANCE!

Menlo Park, CA

The job interview is one of the most critical aspects of a career search. But based upon a nationwide survey of executives, the interview behaviors of some job seekers today can only be described as bizarre, unconventional, humorous and counterproductive.

"The interview is the first major step toward securing a new job, but too many candidates act in a self-defeating manner," said Robert Half, founder of Accountemps, the world's largest temporary personnel service for accounting, bookkeeping and information systems.

Executives were asked: What is the most unusual thing you have ever witnessed or heard of happening during a job interview? Below are some of the more exceptional responses:

"Said if he were hired, he would teach me ballroom dancing at no charge, and started demonstrating."

"She returned that afternoon asking if we could re-do the entire interview"

"Apologized for being late, said he had accidentally locked his clothes in his closet."

"Took three cellular phone calls. Said she had a similar small business on the side."

"Applicant walked in and inquire has to why he was here."

"After a difficult question, she wanted to know if she could leave the room momentarily to meditate."

"Wanted to borrow the fax machine to send out a personal letter."

"Arrived with a snake around her neck. Said she took her pet everywhere."

"Left his dry cleaner tag on his jacket and said he wanted to show me he was a clean individual."

"Applicant handed me an employment contract and said I'd have to sign it if he was going to be hired."

"After a long interview, he casually said he had already accepted another position."

"Fortunately, these are the exceptions to normal interview conducted. But far too many job seekers ignore the fundamental rules of interview behavior," said Half. "Interviewers look for candidates who are enthusiastic, business-like, well spoken and ask pertinent questions about the company," he said.

The survey polled executive from 200 companies throughout the United States.

YOU WIN

SMALL - INTIMATE - FRIENDLY - HONEST - BEST ODDS IN TOWN - BE A WINNER HERE !!

YOU WIN

SUNDAY BINGO

VISITACION VALLEY CENTER

66 RAYMOND AVE: GYM

GAME STARTS AT 1:00 PM

\$5/PAD (2 PADS MIN)

15 REGULAR GAMES PAY \$200 EACH

ALL SPECIALS PAY \$250

CHERRIES..HORSE RACE GAME..SPECIALS

GAIL'S KITCHEN: CHILI, PASTA, DOGS, CHIPS, SNACKS, SODAS, PIES, CAKES

YOU WIN

YOU WIN

SMALL - INTIMATE - FRIENDLY - HONEST - BEST ODDS IN TOWN - BE A WINNER HERE !!

YOU WIN

Classified Ads

Two lines - 26 characters \$3.00.
Additional lines @ 75 cents
each. Deadline is the 20th of
each month prior to publication
date. Mail ad copy with check to
Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50
Raymond Ave., San Francisco,
CA 94134.

Licensed Manicurist needed:
commission or booth rental.
remodeled shop. Call 587-3077.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Bayview Hunters Point Crime
Abatement Committee
7:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 13,
1991
Joseph Lee Recreation Center
3rd Street and Oakdale Avenue
San Francisco

R.O.S.E.S.: Potrero Police Distr.
Police-Community Relations meet-
ing - Thurs. Feb. 7th 1991 at 7:00 PM
at 900 Minnesota St.

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic Charities is offering an
informational night for volunteers in-
terested in working with the elderly.
Our volunteer program provides a
chance to become a companion with
an elder who is living independently;
to work with one of our Senior
Centers; or provide respite to a
caregiver of an elderly person. The
event will take place at St. Agnes
Rectory, 1025 Masonic Ave., (be-
tween Oak and Page) at 7:00 p.m. on
Tuesday, February 12th. For more
information please call the volunteer
Department at 558-7190, contact
person Emily McFarland.

REC & PARK SOFTBALL
LEAGUE REGISTRATIONS will be
open between February 11, 1991 and
February 16, 1991. Team classifica-
tions are: Masters (35 years and
older); Fast Pitch "A", "B", and "C",
Women's Fast Pitch, Modified Fast
Pitch, Open Slow Pitch, Women's
Slow Pitch and Co-Ed. Monday
through Friday evening games and
Saturday and Sunday day games will
be played. Call 753-7023 for infor-
mation on team rosters, contracts
and fees.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGE-
MENT PLAN:** Draft Environmental
Impact Report is available for review
(the Grapevine Office has one, and
those interested may come look at it)
* The Public Hearing on this Plan is
scheduled for February 28, 1991

**"WALKING FOR A HEALTHY
HEART"** is a free brochure on exer-
cise available from the American
Heart Assn. Send a self-addressed
45-cent stamped, business sized en-
velope to A. H. A., Bernie Wagner,
120 Montgomery St., Suite 1650, San
Francisco, Ca. 94104.

**OPENTO SCHOOL STUDENTS
AND AFTER-SCHOOL PRO-
GRAM PARTICIPANTS:** The Ken-
nedy Center Imagination Celebration/
Youth Arts Festival will be held
in the De Young Museum on Satur-
day, May 11, 1991. Entries will be
accepted from Elementary School
Students, Middle & High School Stu-
dents and from students in Com-
munity-based Art Programs. Ask
your teacher to call 997-1150 for
entry information. Deadlines are in
February and March for the different
entry categories. For general Festi-
val Information, call 664-1680.



February, 1991

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

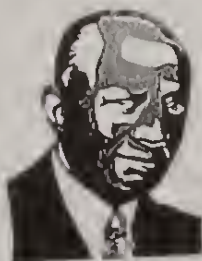
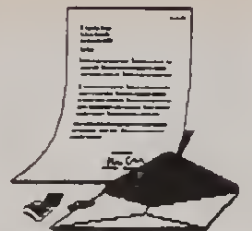


Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

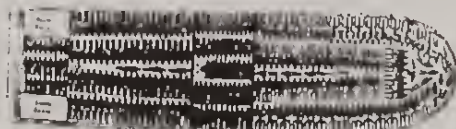
					1 6:30 PM S.A.F.E. MEETING 66 RAYMOND GYMNASIUM	2 GROUNDHOG DAY
3 VVCC BINGO 1:00 PM	4 TORTURE ABOLITION DAY (U.N.)	5 4:30 PM SF LIBRARY COMMISSION LURIE ROOM MAIN LIBRARY * DAY OF PASSING-SUFI	6 7:00 PM BAYVIEW LIBRARY HCKIE AFRO DOLLS & STORIES	7 R.O.S.E.S. POTRERO POLICE/COMM RELATIONS 7:00 PM 900 MINNESOTA	8 NORWAY SUN PACENT	9
10 RACES RELATIONS DAY * VVCC BINGO 1:00 PM	11 JAPAN FOUNDED IN 660 B.C. ON THIS DAY	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13 3:30 PM VV LIBRARY AFRO-AMER STORYTELLER * BAYVIEW CRIME ABATE COMM 7:00P-J. LEE	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 GUNG HAY FAT CHOY * CHINESE NEW YEAR * VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR	16
17 VVCC BINGO 1:00 PM * RIP: GERONIMO 1909 * BROTHERHOOD WEEK	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	19	20 7:00 PM BAYVIEW LIBRARY: GOSPEL CHOIR * JOHN CLENN: ORBITS EARTH 1962	21 2:00 PM RECREATION & PARK COMMISS McLAREN LDCE * VV ELEM SCHL PTA MEETS 5:00 PM	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23 9:30 AM VVCC BOARD MEETING
24 VVCC BINGO 1:00 PM	25 3:30 PM VV LIBRARY AFRICAN CRAFTS: J. J. JACKSON	26	27	28 PURIM * hazardous waste plan 1:30 PUBLIC HEARING Rm 282 CITY HALL		

SEND YOUR CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO:
GRAPEVINE CALENDAR, 50 RAYMOND AV., S.F. 94134
OR CALL 467-6400

DEADLINE.....20TH OF EACH MONTH FOR NEXT MONTH!!!



Carter G. Woodson
1875-1950
"The Father of
African-American History"



A diagram of a slave ship shows how Africans
were crammed into the hull.

What Did It Feel Like to Be a Slave?



Harriet Tubman
1826-1913
birthplace—Dorchester County, MD
"Black Moses"

BLACK HISTORY

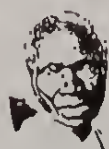
MONTH

WILL BE CELEBRATED WITH DAILY ACTIVITIES
AND GAMES DESIGNED TO HELP EXPLORE
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE
COME JOIN US!!!!!!

3PM-5PM



Joseph Cinque
1811-1870
birthplace—St. Louis, Mo
"He Would Not Be A Slave"



Sojourner Truth
1797-1883
birthplace—Hurley, NY
"Freedom's Messenger"

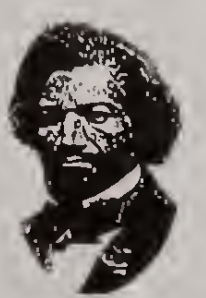


The San Francisco Gang
Prevention Program

Visitacion Valley Community Center
50 Raymond Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94134
(415) 467-6400



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Frederick Douglass
1817-1895
birthplace—Talbot County, MD
"A Trumpet for Freedom"



Malcolm X
1925-1965
birthplace—Omaha, NE
"Fighter for Freedom"

SCHOOL NEWS

Preregister your kindergarten children at their schools of assignment between now and June 14th. Bring Birth Certificates, updated immunization records and proofs of address.

The newly organized Visitacion Valley Elementary School PTA will hold its 2nd meeting on Thursday, February 21st at 5:00 PM at the school. All parents are encouraged to participate and get involved in their childrens' education.

With close to \$25 million in budget cuts projected for the coming year, the following may happen: Program cutback, staff layoffs, larger class sizes, some school closures, less money for textbooks, supplies and field trips, etc.... Superintendent Cortines is proposing new plans for school desegregation, featuring: **REASSIGN** hundreds of students to schools closer to their homes; Offer **FINANCIAL REWARDS** to schools that meet academic achievement goals and **PENALIZE** those that don't; Expand

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING programs at middle and high schools; Increase staff training and hiring of **MINORITY TEACHERS**; Distribute mandatory busing assignments for desegregation **EQUALLY** among **ALL RACIAL GROUPS**; Reduce the number of **ENGLISH ONLY**

STUDENTS IN BILINGUAL PROGRAMS; Place successful **SPECIAL EDUCATION** students back in regular classrooms.

Starting February through May, 1991, the San Francisco Symphony will bring 4 local professional ensembles to the

Visitacion Valley Elementary School auditorium for free evening concerts. This will offer a great way for all VVES 4th and 5th graders (and others) to learn more about music together. A limited number of free tickets for San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra at Davies Hall will be available.



The San Francisco Gang Prevention Program

STREET WORKER OUTREACH EDUCATION CURRICULUM PARENT SUPPORT
SFPD WILDERNESS PROGRAM VIDEO VAN PROJECT
IN VISITACION VALLEY/SUNNYVALE, CALL 467-6400 OR 584-0835.



El Toro

Restaurant and Night Club

2470 San Bruno Ave., San Francisco 468-0670



Now serving Italian-American Food

Monday thru Saturday - Lunch 11-2; Dinner 4-8

Sunday Brunch Buffet 11-3 - Dinner 4-8

Mon. - Sat. Special Lunch \$3.95

Chicken Cacciatore, pasta & vegetable

Free Buffet for Monday Night Football

Orders to Go

Sports Bar Open Daily 6 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Thursday Night Show 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Mariachi with Singers

Live Music for Dancing

Los Genlos eight piece band

Thurs. - Sun. 9 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Snacks served during dance

Tuesday Night Special

Steak Dinner \$5.95

New York Choice Steak 10 oz.

Soup or Salad

Vegetable

Spaghetti or French Fries

Glass of Wine

Wednesday Night Special

Mexican Dinner \$5.95

Enchilladas • Tacos • Salad

Rice • Beans • Tortillas

Free Parking South of Building

Seniors 20% Discount on regular dinners from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

El Toro

468-0670

**With this coupon
receive one glass of wine with dinner**